

Remarks

The Office Action of March 27, 2006, has been carefully considered. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 8-13, and 18-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Titterington et al. (5,372,852) in view of Kessler (4,458,399).

Claims 4-7 and 14-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Titterington et al. in view of Kessler as applied to claim 1. Initially, the Applicants must point out that none of the applied prior art addresses the problems or its solution in which the present invention is directed to. The present invention is directed to the problem of supplying release liquid in ink jet printing systems that utilize intermediate transfer ink jet recording methods; in particular to an applicator assembly that has improved distributing properties and longer life. As discussed, on page 2 of the specification "Existing applicator assembly and oiling methods employ an impregnated foam or capillary media roll that is brought into contact with the image drum forming a nip and thereby displacing oil from the pores to the drum. It is then wiped to a consistent level using a urethane blade. The existing method results in oil levels that are too high for some applications. The high oil levels result in a variety of issues such as offset, reduced gloss, expense, reduced foam roll life etc. Applicants have found that this method is prone to contamination (due to the solubility of the ink with silicone oil) and is an expensive design in comparison to a foam roll system. The prior art applied does not address this problem nor its solution.

The disclosures of the cited art and the distinctions between claims may be briefly summarized as follows:

Titterington et al. teaches a phase change ink composition is indirectly applied to a substrate by raising the temperature of the phase change ink composition to form a liquid phase change ink composition, applying droplets of the phase change ink composition in a liquid phase to a liquid intermediate transfer surface on a solid support in a pattern using a device such as an ink jet printhead, solidifying the phase change ink composition on the liquid intermediate transfer surface, transferring the phase change ink composition from the liquid intermediate transfer surface to the substrate, and fixing the phase change ink composition to the substrate. The phase change ink composition is malleable when the ink is transferred from the intermediate transfer surface to the substrate and is ductile after the ink has been transferred to the substrate and cooled to ambient temperature to preclude the ink from crumbling and cracking. Titterington et al. fails to teach that an applicator assembly for distributing a layer of release liquid onto the imaging transfer surface to form an intermediate transfer surface; said applicator assembly including a porous member having a core, said core having openings defined therein, a liquid supply system connected to said core for supplying release liquid to saturate said porous member to a substantially low predefined saturation level to form said layer of release liquid having an uniform level.

The Examiner has cited and suggested a combination of Titterington et al., with the isolated teachings of Kessler directed to a device for supply **“ink”** to a hand-held portable labeler; and with Takahashi et al directed to a device for supply **“ink”** to a stencil duplicator; Kessler nor Takahashi et al discuss problems associated with forming of a layer of release liquid.

However, it is respectfully submitted that there is not a proper factual or legal basis for any suggestion for that combination, and that combination does not teach the invention.

Kessler and Takahashi et al. both fail to teach an applicator assembly for distributing a layer of release liquid onto the imaging transfer surface to form an intermediate transfer surface; said applicator assembly including a porous member having a core, said core having openings defined therein, a liquid supply system connected to said core for supplying release liquid to saturate said porous member to a substantially low predefined saturation level to form said layer of release liquid having an uniform level., combination of Titterington et al. Kessler and Takahashi et al do not teach the claimed structure or system, and also does not provide the suggestion to combine.

No additional fee is believed to be required for this amendment. However, the undersigned Xerox Corporation attorney (or agent) hereby authorizes the charging of any necessary fees, other than the issue fee, to Xerox Corporation Deposit Account No. 24-0025. This also constitutes a request for any needed extension of time and authorization to charge all fees therefor to Xerox Corporation Deposit Account No. 24-0025.

In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, he is hereby directed to call Lloyd F. Bean, II, at Telephone Number 585-423-4520, Rochester, New York.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'LFB', is written over a horizontal line.

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LFB/cw
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